



**Southwest Ontario  
Aboriginal Health  
Access Centre**

□ 77 Anishinaabeg Drive  
Muncey, Ontario N0L 1Y0  
P 519.289.0352 F 519.289.0355

□ 425-427 William Street  
London, Ontario N6B 3E1  
P 519.672.4079 F 519.672.6945

soahac.on.ca

November 26, 2018

Planning and Environment Committee  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

Dear Planning and Environment Committee

I am writing this letter advising of our support of the Middlesex-London Health Unit's efforts in securing a Permanent Supervised Drug Consumption Site.

We are in full support of the rezoning of the proposed 446 York Street location for the Permanent Supervised Drug Consumption Site.

As an Aboriginal Health Access Centre serving First Nations, Metis and Inuit individuals, families and communities across the Southwest Region of Ontario; this crisis is being felt significantly in our urban, on reserve and off reserve populations.

SOAHAC has been working collaboratively both with the Middlesex London Health Unit and HIV Aids Connection at the current Temporary Overdose Prevention Site by having a SOAHAC staff Harm Reduction Outreach Worker on site one day per week. They assist within the aftercare room and doing outreach to both urban indigenous populations and on reserve communities that SOAHAC presently serves.

The Temporary Overdose Prevention Site has been a success to date; 56 overdoses reversed, over 10,000 injections off the street, over 150 people into drug treatment, less needles waste downtown. The time has come for a permanent solution.

The permanent site has and will continue to save lives; and address the issue of drug use that already exists in the neighbourhood. The proposed permanent site is within walking distance of both Dundas and Richmond and Dundas and Adelaide; which are the two biggest London hot spots for drug use.

Having this site will continue to ensure less needle waste on the streets and help to get injections off the street and into a controlled environment; which is beneficial to everyone.

Having the wraparound services including; addictions treatment, mental health counselling and HIV testing will continue to be an integral part of a Permanent Supervised Drug Consumption site.



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The partners presently engaged in the Temporary Overdose Prevention Site have proven that they can run a service that respects neighbourhood businesses and residents.

Most importantly continuing to treat people with respect will help them feel valued and support them to take better care of themselves.

Having the ability to continue to support this work with our community partners now and in future; allows SOAHAC to provide culturally sensitive care and support to not only the individuals, families and communities we serve; but to all affected by this continued crisis.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Brian Dokis,  
Chief Executive Officer  
SOAHAC  
P: 519-914-1858 Ext. 2001  
E: [bdokis@soahac.on.ca](mailto:bdokis@soahac.on.ca)